

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services
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Dear Residential Providers:

The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) wants to thank all of you for your ongoing commitment to Maine's children and families, both now and throughout the year. We are at a critical point in the COVID-19 crisis and need your help, more than ever, to weather this storm.

The following guidance is subject to change, however, as of 12pm on 3/20/2020, it is based on currently available information and recommendations from the CDC and the OCFS Medical Director.

Supplies:

The Maine CDC maintains a portal to submit requests for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). These requests are being triaged and prioritized based on highest level of need. The portal is available here: [PPE Request](#).

Testing:

Testing in Maine is not being done on all patients who are symptomatic. Not all children, nor all staff, will be tested. Decisions about testing are made by the local health care organization based on the circumstances and the availability of the necessary testing supplies. It is important to have a plan should a child or member of your staff become symptomatic, regardless of whether they are tested. Below is guidance for the youth in your care, it is based on CDC guidelines available today:

- If a youth is showing signs of respiratory distress or having severe difficulty breathing, use established emergency protocols within your facility.
- If a youth has a temperature greater than 100.4°, cough, and/or difficulty breathing, contact the child's Primary Care Provider to determine if testing is needed. Decisions regarding testing will be based on the most current CDC guidelines.
- If it is considered possible a youth is infected, but not tested, they should be treated as though they have COVID-19. This includes isolating the youth for at least 7 days from their first symptoms. They should remain isolated until they have been symptom-free for 72 hours.
 - Any close contacts of the youth should be quarantined and monitored for symptoms for 14 days.
 - Isolated is defined as the separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease and potentially infectious from those who are not infected to prevent spread of the communicable disease.
 - Quarantine is defined as the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease, but not yet symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease.

March 20, 2020

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- Recommendations are changing rapidly. The [CDC](#) and the youth's primary care physician will assist you if you do have a positive case in your facility.

Visits:

Providers are encouraged to implement practices to ensure the health and safety of residents and are free to determine how to best do this.

- For agencies limiting on and off-site visits, OCFS suggests making reasonable efforts to conduct visits virtually and explain the change, in advance, to parents/caregivers and the youth.
- For agencies continuing to allow on and off-site visits, it is recommended that youth returning from off-site visits, as well as visitors to the facility be screened for symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., **fever, cough, difficulty breathing**) **before entering the facility.**

Further Information:

Please continue to reference guidance from the following resources:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>

State of Maine Child and Family Services

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/COVID-19-response.shtml>

Thank you,

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